

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSPECTING RETICLES IMPLEMENTING
PARALLEL PROCESSING**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is an apparatus for analyzing a plurality of image portions of at least
5 a region of a sample. The apparatus includes a plurality of processors arranged to
receive and analyze at least one of the image portions, and the processors being
arranged to operate in parallel. The apparatus also includes a data distribution system
arranged to receive image data, select at least a first processor for receiving a first
image from the image data, select at least a second processor for receiving a second
10 image from the image data, and output the first and second image portions to their
selected processors.